

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, April 22, 2005

NEW REPORT ANALYZES RECENT HOMICIDE TRENDS

While the incidence of homicide in the Nation's Capital has declined sharply over the past decade, DC continues to struggle with violence, according to a new report from the MPDC. The study takes an in-depth look at the homicides that occurred in DC between 2001 and 2004, analyzing the "who, what, when, where and why" of the crimes, as well as MPDC initiatives for dealing with the problem of lethal violence. The District saw its lowest number of homicides in nearly 20 years in 2004 (198), dropping below 200 for the first time since 1986. The report finds that while some aspects of the homicide situation in DC are changing, many others remain consistent. Homicide victims have become younger in recent years; between 2003 and 2004, the number of murder victims age 17 and younger rose from 13 to 24. Between 2001 and 2004, the percentage of female victims who were juveniles (17%) was almost three times higher than for juvenile male victims (6%). Most of the circumstances surrounding the crime of homicide have remained relatively unchanged in recent years. Between 2001 and 2004, almost one-third of all murders in which the motive was known were drug-related. Guns were consistently the primary weapon of choice: almost 80 percent of homicide victims died as a result of gunshot wounds. Almost 70 percent of DC's homicides between 2001 and 2004 occurred in the 5th, 6th and 7th police districts, and 93 percent of homicide victims were African-American.

- ① View the entire report (in PDF) at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/frames.asp?doc=/mpdc/lib/mpdc/publications/researchreports/homicidereport_2005.pdf
- ① For a printed copy of the report, contact the MPDC's Public Information Office at (202) 727-4383.

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING IN DC REACHES ANOTHER RECORD LOW DURING MARCH

Aggressive speeding in DC's photo radar enforcement zones reached another record low rate during March 2005, with just 3.1 percent of all vehicles monitored by photo radar found to be speeding aggressively (that is, traveling above the threshold speed established for the program). The previous low was 3.3 percent in January and February 2005. By comparison, the aggressive speeding rate was 31 percent in July 2001 (initial warning period) and 25.5 percent in August 2001 (first month of ticketing). Of the more than 1.4 million vehicles that passed through photo radar enforcement zones during March 2005, only about 44,000 were found to be speeding aggressively. In March 2002, by contrast, there were only 538,000 vehicles monitored by photo radar, but nearly 70,000 violators detected, for an aggressive speeding rate of nearly 13 percent. Average speeds on DC's residential streets, arteries and highways are substantially lower today than they were when the program began. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was just 25.3 mph in March 2005—down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. Since August 2001, more than 1.28 million Notices of Infraction have been mailed and approximately 952,000 paid, resulting in fines of more than \$72 million. This level of consistent enforcement has been achieved without taking officers away from community policing assignments in DC neighborhoods.

- ① Access the latest program information at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548110,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,31886|.asp>PhotoRadarResults
- ① Motorists are reminded of two recent photo radar program expansions: the addition of two marked cruisers and the activation of four stationary cameras. Details on these and other photo radar news items are at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547998,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,31886|.asp>PhotoRadarNewsandLinks
- ① Get up-to-date information on DC's red-light camera intersection safety program at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

WARMER WEATHER BRINGS RETURN OF OPEN AIR MINI-STATIONS TO THE STREETS OF DC

The return of warmer weather to DC also means the return of the MPDC's Open-Air MiniStations to the sidewalks and street corners of the city. Open-Air MiniStations are highly visible, picnic table-and-chair sets that serve as outdoor, portable police facilities. Each police district has at least two MiniStations; some have more. When the temperatures are warm enough, the MiniStations are temporarily placed in different communities for varying periods of time, so the MPDC can deter criminal activity and better serve residents and visitors. The MiniStations serve two main purposes: (1) to let drug dealers, gang members and other criminals know that illegal activity will not be tolerated in the community, and (2) to help law-abiding residents with information and assistance for building a safe and healthy neighborhood. At each MiniStation, residents can meet some of the officers who patrol their community, tell police about crime and disorder problems, file a police report or obtain information about MPDC programs and services.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE PROVISIONS TAKE EFFECT

The MPDC will be enforcing provisions of a new DC law that introduces a number of changes in regulation, customer service and consumer protection affecting motor vehicles. The District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles Reform Amendment Act was enacted by the DC Council last December and went into effect this past week. The Act amends a number of traffic violations enforced by the MPDC, including the institution of a \$500 fine for any covering applied to a license plate; such coverings can make it difficult for a police officer to easily identify a motor vehicle. The new law also imposes a \$100 fine if an opened alcoholic beverage container is found in a vehicle, clarifying DC law in this area. The law further requires that the registered owner of a vehicle can reassign liability for a photo-enforced traffic ticket (photo radar or red-light camera) only if the driver's license number (as well as name and address) of the actual driver is included on the affidavit; this provides additional protection against abuse in reassigning liability for such citations. Other provisions of the law establish consumer protections related to damaged vehicles and change the taxes on hybrid vehicles and some commercial vehicles.

NEWS & NOTES

New Assistant Chief for Security Services. Chief Ramsey has appointed Gerald Wilson as assistant chief in charge of the MPDC's new Office of Security Services. Formerly chief of the Prince George's County Police Department, Wilson most recently served as head of the DC Protective Services agency. The Office of Security Services will oversee MPDC's management of school security, Protective Services and possibly other specialized police and security services.

SOD Commander Wins National Award. Special Operations Division Commander Cathy Lanier was awarded the 2005 Gary P. Hayes Award for excellence in policing by the DC-based Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) at the group's annual meeting this past week in New York. Commander Lanier is recognized for SOD's work during several recent national security events, including the 2005 Presidential Inauguration, the Ronald Reagan funeral and International Monetary Fund/World Bank meetings. The award, named in honor of PERF's first executive director, is given to police leaders dedicated to improving the delivery of police services through quality and innovation.

GLLU Named Finalist for Government Innovation Award. The MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit and the SEED School have been recognized by Harvard University as two of the country's most innovative government programs. The two DC government programs were named finalists for the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award, a program of the Kennedy School of Government. Learn more at <http://www.dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=687>.

- ① Learn more by visiting:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,546920,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp
- ① To request the temporary placement of an Open-Air MiniStation in your community, contact your local police district. To find out what police district and Police Service Area you live in, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543336,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,1.asp
- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://www.dmv.dc.gov/about/041505.shtm>
- ① For a summary (in PDF) of the new law go to:
http://www.dmv.dc.gov/info/forms/reformact2004amend_pdf.shtm

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 4/22/05
◆ 2005: 53	
◆ 2004: 58	
◆ % Change: -8.6%	
◆ Closure Rate: 50.9% (27 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 4/16/05
◆ Total: 915	
◆ Drugs: 155	
◆ Weapons: 28	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 13	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 27	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 4/16/05
◆ Arrests: 52	
◆ Curfew Violations: 77	
◆ Truants: 100	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 4/20/05
◆ April: 106	
◆ 2005 Total: 808	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 4/22/05
◆ 2005: 15	
◆ 2004: 21	
◆ % Change: -28.6%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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